

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 237

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mother Georgia Anna King of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mother Georgia Anna King; and

WHEREAS, Mother King was a beloved Memphis activist and social justice icon who spent her life being a voice for the most vulnerable within her community and working for equal rights for all; and

WHEREAS, as a young activist, Mother King was bold and fearless; during the 1960s, she was involved with the Sanitation Workers' Strike and served as a leader for the "I Am A Man" movement and the Poor People's Campaign; and

WHEREAS, Georgia King long pushed for equitable public transportation, and in 2011, she formed a Transportation Task Force, which became the Memphis Bus Riders Union in early 2012; and

WHEREAS, her efforts addressed everyday problems with public transportation, such as overcrowding, as well as bringing more bus routes and stops to underserved areas, improving access for handicapped riders, and increasing overall security; and

WHEREAS, the cause perhaps nearest to Georgia King's heart was fighting on behalf of the homeless, which she had done since the 1960s; in 1989, she was one of the leaders in the Southern contingency with the New Exodus Walker, a group that marched on the steps of the nation's capitol to demand lawmakers address the plight of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, she ran community food drives, and at the time of her death, she was working to open Miracles Mission for the Homeless on South Main Street in an attempt to provide a long-term solution for the homeless population; and

WHEREAS, in honor of her advocacy on behalf of the homeless, Mother King was named a Memphis and Shelby County Woman of Achievement in 1994; she was also honored by Memphis City Councilman Lee Harris in 2015 with a resolution to name a portion of Poplar Avenue between Ayers Street and Orleans Street "Evangelist Georgia A. King Avenue," and in 2018, she received the MLK 50 Award for Leadership and Activism; and

WHEREAS, Georgia King's tireless efforts to bring about a more just, humane society will continue to inspire generations to come; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we should pay tribute to her bountiful life of purpose and service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mother Georgia Anna King, reflecting fondly upon her enduring legacy in Memphis and beyond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Mother King.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.